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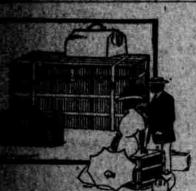
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BENEFITS OF PAROLE FOR WORTHY LIFE PRISONERS

Thomas Dudley Wells, Secretary of the State Board of Prison Directors, Makes Notable Address Before American Prison Congress

great in Indiana as in Iowa. Natof eggs to make liberty emelets. No
urally in the black belt of the South,
where the large problem of crime and
the larger problem of color jostle each
ofher, the statistics of life convicts are
the plumpest.

the plumpest.

RELEASED OF LIFE CONVICTS.
Diversity of policy deservit stop with getting. If a convicts into prison; it also operates in setting them out of prison. Habit and tradition, which vary with latitude and longitude and which cannot be pulled up by the roots like a weed, but may be slowly trained like a weed, but may be slowly trained like a vene, make or mar the methods of dealing with the life prisoner. In some States the iron gate is not likely to swing outward for the life man until he is summoned by the Grim Resperwhile in other States a life sentence is interpreted, in practice, to be equivalent to a definite number of years; and a convict who, having served the specified period, has a laundered prison record and who manifests a disposition to put his hand to the plough of orderly citizenship and not to look back is considered eligible for conditional release. To cite a single contrast—a contrast divided by a continent—the ratio of pardons of life prisoners to the general census during the past five years has been ten times as great in Oregon as in Cosnacticut.

In a few States the parole principle is already extended to the fellow serving a life sentence. For instance, in California a well behaved life prisoner may be paroled after eight years: in Montana, after thirteen years and nime months; in New York, after twenty years in cases of murder in the second degree; in Minnesota, after twenty-sizy years; and montand and which is remained by a broad consideration of pardons appear, on pecasion, to be insued more on the basis of outside pressure than on the basis of in side prisonry. Under these circum side pressure than on the basis of in side prisonry. Under these circum?

Life prisoner a conditional particular of the convict has been procured.

Life prisoner a conditional particular of parole, may be granted him.

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Life prisoner a condition of parole, may b BELEASE OF LIEF CONVICTS

sterilized edition of parole, may be granted him.

In some States no definite and consistent policy toward life prisoners obtains. Provision for parole is lacking; no plan for a re-examination of life cases after a given period is in operation; and pardons appear, on occasion, to be issued more on the basis of outside pressure than on the basis of inside inquiry. Under these circumstances, one life prisoner may be taken while another of equal worth is left, and the distribution of justice is haphazard and uneven.

CONDUCT OF LIFE PRISONERS. CONDUCT OF LIFE PRISONERS.

The conduct of life prisoners is another matter that must be taken into account in making up a schedule of the assets and liabilities of the parole proposal. Impressive and convincing are the reports which, in answer to inquiries, have been made to the committee by prison wardens and which show that the behavior of the bulk of felons immured within penal walls under life sentences is excellent. In several instances life convicts are declared to be the best class of prisoners, and der life sentences is excellent. In several instances life convicts are declared to be the best class of prisoners, and their department shines like a good deed in a naughty world. The exceptions—the life prisoners who put deviltry above decency, rebelliousness above reason, and trickery above truth—are numerous enough to prove the rule. Manifestly wrong would be the parole of these.

Manifestly wrong wood these.

Of the life prisoners who are released by pardon or parole few play a return engagement in crime. Nearly all of them rise on the stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things; and it is probable that not over one or two per cent. of them ever puts on prison surb again.

The reason for the integrity of the reason for the integrity of the reason for the integrity of the reason of discharged life men is not

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 17.—At today's session of the American Prison Congress session of the American Prison Congress at Seattle, the report of a special committee which was appointed in Richmond last year to inquire into the question of extending the benefits of parole to worthy life prisoners was submitted by Thomas Dudley Weils of Hartford, secretary of the Connecticut Board of State Prison directors. The other members of the committee are Henry Wolfer, warden of the Minnestota State prison; the Rev. A. J. Steelman, chaplain of the Illinois State means, chaplain of the Illinois State means, chaplain of the Illinois State man, chapla

DIVERSITY OF POLICY.

A consideration which may not be ignored in a discussion of the problem and which makes for caution in conclusions is the diversity in the community attitude toward life penalties. Various, indeed, are the public policies under which the 5,000 life convicts, mostly homicides, who may now be counted in the United States were condemned to tread the wine-press of life imprisonment. Reflecting a differing public opinion as translated into criminal codes and judicial procedure, some States are nimble, and others torpid, in affixing to felons the life-sentence tag. The result is a curious convicts housed under the penal roofs of various commonwealths.

For example, the ratio of life prisoners to the general population is eighten times as great in Connecticut as in New Jersey; nearly seventeen times as great in Florida as in Massachusetts; six times as great in West Virginia; four times as great in Relative centure times as great in New York as in Pennsylvania; and over three times as great in Indiana as in Iowa. Naturally in the black belt of the South, where the large problem of crime and the concerning and of the social defenses against crime.

Two hostlic criticisms which have two obstile criticisms which have traced are, in brief, that parole would tend to blur the deterrcht effects of life imprisonment and that the power of parole might be exercised unwisely. These objections, naturally raised and honestly pressed, seem to the committee to mistake fears for facts, and shadow for substance. After a period ranging from ten to thirty years, and after the deterrent effects of life imprisonment and that the power of parole might be exercised unwisely. These objections, naturally raised and honestly pressed, seem to the committee to mistake fears for facts, and shadow for substance. After a period ranging from ten to thirty years, and after the deterrent effects of life imprisonment. The power of parole might be exercised for facts, and hence the same to the committee to mistake fears for facts,

trivial round, the common task, of prison requirements for perhaps a score of years, his habits and character become so firmly fixed that no gift of prophecy, but only the gift of common sense, is needed to tell with tolerable accuracy whether he is fit to walk as a free men among free

minate sentence, whose minimum term shall be fixed by law or by the court, and whose maximum term shall be the offender's natural life, is commended to the attention of state leg-

A SYMPOSIUM OF VIEWS.

An appendix to the committee's report contains a symposium of expert views on the question of the parole of life prisoners. Expressions of opinion were obtained by the committee from various prominent prison wardens and from eminent students of criminal problems. All parts of the country are represented in the symposium. Two Connecticut experts—Chief Justice Baldwin of the supreme court, who is opposed to the parole of life prisoners and Warden Garvin of the state prison, who favors the parole of worthy life convicts who have served not less than twenty years—figure in the list. A SYMPOSIUM OF VIEWS. -figure in the list.

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WALL STREET TO-DAY.

Kicked Cook's Cat, Sued for \$100,000

New York, Aug. 17.—Ernest W. Smellie, New York menager for a glove manufacturing firm, has been sued for \$100,000, by Emily Jones, his cook, because, it is charged, he kicked the cat through a window screen. Marjorie, his small daughter, had complained that the cat scratched her. The cook says her eyes were filled with a shower of small particles of rusty iron wire as the cat sailed skyward, and she estimates the damage to her sight and her lessened chances of matrimony, at \$100,000.

No Liquor Sold Till Strike is Off

Stockholm. Aug. 17.—Asserting that the Prohibition of liquor selling in Stockholm and other strike centers was ruining the tourist trade of the country, a committee of hotel keepers to-day called on the governor to have the law changed so as not to apply to hotels. The request was refused, the governor declaring that such a move would be promoting money making at the expense of law and order. Until the strike is settled there will be no liquor sold in the city, declares the governor. The strike is sradually wearing itself out, the authorities say. There are now not more than 100,000 men on strike throughout the entire country, more than half or the original strikers having returned to work.

COMMONWEALTH HOTEL Holds High Reputation For Recep

and Entertainment of Guests.

Among the many hostelries of Boston that enjoy a high reputation for the reception and entertainment of their guests, both transient and permanent, none holds a more enviable position in the minds of the public than that of the Commonwealth Hotel on Beacon Hill, of which Storer Francis Crafts, formerly of Beverly, is the proprietor. One of the most centrally located hotels in the city, yet removed from the immediate noise and roar of the busy streets, the accessibility of this house from the great retail stores and places of amusement in the city makes it one of the most popular places of residence in the metropolis. The Hotel stands on historic ground, famed old Beacon Hill of Colonial days, directly facing the Capitol, and from the top of its ten—storied height a splendid panorama of Boston and its environments rolls itself out like a scroll before the visitor's enraptured eye. Within a few doors of the Commonwealth Hotel, which, by the way, is a temperance house of the strictest character. Is the building of the American Baptist Association, from which is sent weekly great quantities of goods for the cheering of both the mind and body of heathen people in far-off lands. Missionaries of this denomination, and many others, completing their arrangements for their voyage to remote countries make the Commonwealth their headquarters pending their departure.

The statement has been made in and Entertainment of Guests.

countries make the Commonwealth their headquarters pending their departure.

The statement has been made in some quarters that it is impossible to run a hotel profitably without a bar, that is, to conduct a house on strictly temperance principles is sure to result in financial loss. This claim is directly refuted by the unqualified success from the very beginning of the Commonwealth Hotel. The house has never had a bar, nor has intoxicating liquor of any kind ever been sold within its walls. From the very opening of the Hotel business has been exceedingly good, and often hundreds have been turned away, there being no room to accommodate them.

These matters come under the personal supervision of Mrs. Crafts, wife of the proprietor, by whose able direction the great staff of employees perform their proper duties, and whose gracious presence aids Mr. Crafts in the performance of the social duties of one of the largest hotels in Massachusetts.

There are over two hundred rooms in the Commonwealth Hotel and ninety of these have private baths. The house is strictly fireproof, being constructed throughout of stone, with nothing to burn but the doors. Long distance telephones are in every room, and a pair of electrically operated elevators give constant service day, and night. In short, the Commonwealth Hotels in Massachusetts for individuals or families to make their home, either

in Massachusetts for individuals or families to make their home, either transiently or permanently, and although offering extra accommodations and complete service, the arrangement of rates is such that guests are assured of receiving more for their money than in any other house in Boston.—Times, Beverly, Mass,

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CHINESE MINISTER WHOSE RECALL THE THEATRES CAUSES SURPRISE

JACKSON'S

Eddle Leonard, at the head of one

Body is Found

Near Railroad

(Special from United Press.

Nagel Invites Hill To Entertain Japs

Although the recall of Wu Ting Fanghad been rumored for several weeks. Washington officials and diplomats were surprised when it came. The Chinese minister is now in Peru, to which country he has been credited along with the United States. It is Dr. Wu's second recall from the United States, the first occurring when he expressed sympathy for this country in the Boxer outbreak. Chang Yin Tang, his successor, is now deputy vice president of foreign affairs. He formerly was stationed at Madrid. Washington, Aug. 17.—Secretary Nagel, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has decided to invite James J. Hill, chairman of the board of the Northern Pacific railroad, to act as one of the government's agents in the entertainment of the thirty or more representatives of the Japaness chamber of commerce who will visit this country in September.

It is likely that the secretary himself, or Assistant Secretary McHarg, will also accompany the party on its tour of the eastern cities.

The trip is being made in the interest of furthering commercial interests of Japan and the United States by inducing a greater interchange of husiness.

MARINA LEADS SPANISH FORCES AGAINST MOORS

New York, Aug. 17.—(Opening)—Confusion marked the first five minutes of trading. Some stocks ranging upwards while others sustained losses, the irregularity being most pronounced in Union Pacific. The common stock opened % lower and the preferred % up. New York Central opened % up. 11 a. m.—The market was firm Atchison sold up to 120%. Union Pacific was steady around 217 and Southern Pacific was not far from its top price at 137 %. Steel rallied to the best prices. Amalgamated recovered to 86. Government, bonds unchanged; other bonds firm.

Noon.—At midday pronounced weakness was shown all through the list. Union Pacific fell to 212 %. Reading sold down to 163 %. St. Paul dropped over 1 point, Pennsylvania declined to 141 % and a fractional decline occurred in Northern Pacific. American Smelting also lost a point.

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